

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1947

The LYCHEE IS A NATURAL FOR SOUTH FLORIDA

a cluster of
FRESH LYCHEE FRUIT

EVERY HOME IN SOUTH FLORIDA SHOULD HAVE A LYCHEE TREE AND EVERY FARM A LYCHEE ORCHARD

LYCHEE ORCHARDS ••• LAUREL • FLORIDA

WM. R. GROVE, Owner

Lychee (*Litchi Chinensis*) Trees at all times
Fresh Lychee Fruit in season June-July

Prices on Application

SARASOTA COUNTY

Nurseries four miles north of Venice on
Tamiami Trail (U. S. Highway 41)

THE LYCHEE

THE LYCHEE (*Litchi chinensis*) is a sub-tropical evergreen tree that produces one of the world's finest fresh fruits.

The tree is indigenous to China and the fruit there is highly esteemed. It comes from southeastern China where the climate is very much like that of Central and South Florida. The fresh ripe fruit is about the size and color of a large ripe strawberry. It has a very thin but tough skin, the upper part of which is removed between the thumb and first finger before the fruit is eaten. It is very high in sugar content and has a flavor all its own.

The skin of the fruit retains its bright red color for several days after being picked from the tree, and retains this color for two or three weeks under refrigeration. While the color of the skin changes to dark brown within a few days unless under refrigeration, the fruit within is, under normal conditions, not damaged for perhaps ten days or two weeks.

The fresh fruit of the lychee is almost unknown to our American people, most of the small quantity heretofore grown in Florida having gone to the Chinese in our northern cities.

When the fruit is dried in the sun or by artificial means it becomes the "Lychee nut" of commerce, presents of which are given by many Chinese-Americans, especially merchants, to their friends and customers during the holidays. The fresh lychee is as much superior to the dried lychee as the fresh peach is to the dried peach, but it is impracticable to bring the fresh lychee fruit from China.

The fruit grows in clusters on the limb tips of evergreen trees that may ultimately reach a height of forty feet with about the same spread. There are many varieties of lychee. Fruit producing trees of the so-called Brewster variety are growing in approximately fifty locations in Florida, ranging from Orlando to Homestead. Both coasts and the Ridge, Everglades and Redlands districts are represented, with usually but one tree in each locality. Chinese in America have pronounced the Brewster a satisfactory commercial fruit. This variety comes from

Fukien province, on the extreme northern range of the lychee in China and is therefore well adapted to Florida. The Brewster variety fruits from about June 20th to July 10. Orchards of this variety are being set out in South Florida.

Not only is the lychee a most desirable dooryard tree on account of its fine fruit, but it is a highly ornamental evergreen tree of symmetrical lines. Several times each year it throws out a new growth of leaves, usually wine colored, and when the fruit is ripe its bright red clusters present a striking object in the landscape.

EVERY HOME IN SOUTH FLORIDA SHOULD HAVE A LYCHEE TREE AND EVERY FARM A LYCHEE ORCHARD

When mature the tree withstands nearly as much cold as the average citrus tree. It appears to prefer a somewhat acid soil and thrives best on a reasonably rich soil although large specimens are growing and fruiting well on regular Florida citrus soil. Its moisture requirement for best growth is believed to be considerably greater than for citrus.

Like citrus, lychee seedlings cannot be depended upon to reproduce true to parentage, and as budding is unsuccessful, Chinese air-layering and inarching are depended upon for exact reproduction. It usually requires from four to six years for layered or inarched trees to bear. Seedlings may require twice that length of time.

Young lychee trees may be planted at any time of the year. They should be set out in fertile soil, well mulched and watered more frequently than the average planting. Well rotted manure may be added to the soil when planting. They can later utilize at least the normal quantity of fertilizer applied to citrus. If set in low ground they should be elevated when planted. The water level should be at least two and one-half feet down for best results. Some shade, such as cheese cloth, is desirable the first summer until the trees get a start, and they should be protected from frost the first two or three winters. If planted in orchard formation the distance between trees should be at least 25 feet each way.

THE LYCHEE IS A NATURAL FOR SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHARDS ARE BEING PLANTED